SAFEQUIP

Surface Drysuit User Manual

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PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO ITEMS MARKED WITH THIS WARNING SYMBOL

WARNINGS

- This suit is a membrane drysuit. Membrane drysuits do not offer thermal protection. A thermal undersuit appropriate for the conditions and the work being undertaken must be worn under the membrane drysuit. (see further notes in "Drysuit Guidelines")
- This membrane drysuit is fitted with latex or neoprene seals. These materials could cause an allergic reaction in some individuals. Check by wearing the suit for about 30 minutes before use.
- Always use your drysuit with a lifejacket or PFD (Personal Flotation Device).
- Improper maintenance or misuse of this drysuit could cause exposure to thermal hazards or drowning.

DRYSUIT WARRANTY

Safequip Ltd guarantees, to the original purchaser only, that the drysuit will be free of defects in materials and/or craftsmanship under normal use for two years, from the date of purchase with the exception of the Responder Drysuit SAF10029 which comes with a standard 12 month warranty. Please see note below relating to Latex seals & socks.

Please Note: there is a limited warranty on all Neoprene & Latex neck, wrist seals and socks, which are covered for 90 days from date of purchase, provided proper care and maintenance are performed as described within this user manual. Should your drysuit prove to be defective for any reason (other than those listed in the limitations section), it will be repaired or replaced (at Safequip Ltd discretion) free of charge, excluding shipping and handling charges.

Statement of Limitations - General

Warranty does not cover damage from accident, abuse, tampering, lack of proper care and maintenance, or improper use of the suit. Modifications or repair by anyone other than an authorised sales and service centre trained to service the suit will void the warranty. Safequip Ltd will not be responsible for recovery or replacement of the product in the event of loss or theft.

Safequip Ltd, or its distributors make no warranties, either expressed or implied, with respect to this product or its Owner's guide, except those stated in the preceding paragraphs.

In consideration of the sale of this suit to you, you agree and understand that in no event will Safequip Ltd, or its distributors, be held liable for any personal injuries resulting from its operation, or for any other damages whether direct, indirect, incidental or consequential even if Safequip Ltd, is advised of such damages.

Warranty does not extend to damage due to accident, abuse, modification, or tampering.

Warranty for neck and wrist seals is extended for only 90 days.

Whilst trimmings of seals and the fitting of attachments such as sealing rings to seals is an accepted practice and is not discouraged, this practice will void the warranty on the particular seals it is undertaken on.

INTRODUCTION

This Owner's Guide describes the maintenance, and operation and use of your drysuit. By following the instructions in this Guide, you will understand how to prepare your drysuit for use, how to don and remove it, and how to maintain and store it.

DRYSUIT GUIDELINES

We and numerous other manufacturers of drysuits have adopted and endorsed the following guidelines.

The fit of your drysuit is extremely important. Ensure that you have full movement of all limbs and can reach, without restriction. Adjust internal braces to suit and ensure that you are able to crouch with arms extended over the head. Ensure that whilst standing you can lift your legs to a height of at least 0.5 metres.

Always use with either a lifejacket or PFD (Personal Flotation Device).

Use a thermal undersuit with the correct thermal insulation for the water temperature you are in and your exercise rate.

Check your zipper and seals before immersion in water.

NECK SEALS

NOTE: Drysuits may have either a thin latex neck seal, or a neoprene neck seal.

If your drysuit has been fitted with a standard size latex neck seal that corresponds to the size of the suit and you are new to wearing a drysuit with a latex neck seal, it may feel uncomfortable when initially worn. It should fit snugly, but not be too tight. Try wearing the neck seal for some time to determine the "comfort" factor. Also latex has a tendency to relax after use.

If your drysuit has been fitted with a neoprene neck seal, try wearing it for some time before determining its "comfort" factor.

Wear the neck seal so that it fits as low down on the neck as possible.

WARNING: An extremely tight neck seal can restrict the flow of blood through the neck, possibly causing injury or death.

If necessary, the seals can be trimmed to enlarge the opening. Remember that once a seal has been trimmed it cannot be made smaller.

Trimming the Neck Seal

Use long/sharp scissors to make the cuts.

Make as few cuts as possible.

Cut evenly just above the first moulding ring on the latex seal. If the suit is fitted with a neoprene neck seal, cut only 5mm off at a time.

Only trim one ring from the latex seal at a time, trying it on after each cut.

Avoid leaving any jagged edges that could cause the seal to split.

CAUTION: Do not use scented talcum powder. The oils may cause damage to the latex seals.

Check that the teeth of the zipper are clear of any debris and that the zipper operates smoothly. Ensure that clothing worn under the drysuit does not become trapped in the zip. For rear entry suit models always ensure your buddy checks underclothing is well away from the zipper when closing the zip. Do not use excess force when opening and closing.

To lubricate the zipper, close it and apply commercially available beeswax or zip lubricant.

CAUTION: Never use aerosol lubricants. They may cause damage to the fabric of the suit.

Inspect the entire drysuit for any cuts, tears, or other damage that would affect the integrity of the drysuit.

DRESSING

A membrane drysuit does not offer thermal protection. Primary thermal protection (underwear) should be worn in an amount that will keep you comfortable for the dive. In addition to water temperature and duration, the weather conditions, your physical condition and anticipated activity rate should be taken into consideration to avoid thermal hazards.

CAUTION: To help avoid overheating prior to water entry, we recommend preparing and setting up all of your equipment prior to putting on your thermal wear and drysuit.

- Remove any items such as rings, watches, earrings and other jewellery that could damage the latex seals.
- Before donning your drysuit, please make sure you are standing in a suitable area which is free of objects which could potentially puncture or damage the sock.
- Open the zipper completely and fold the suit open, use care not to get sand or debris in the zipper.
- Whilst sitting down, put your feet into the suit.

- As you stand up, ease the suit up your legs, ensuring there is no slack material along the length of each leg.
- Pull the suit snugly up into your crotch.
- Put one arm through the sleeve of the suit and ease your hand through the wrist seal. Avoid putting pressure on the seal with your fingernails.
- Repeat the above for the other arm.
- Pull the suit up your torso as much as possible.
- Adjust braces to comfortably hold the suit into the crotch, if fitted. (Braces are highly recommended)
- Insert both hands into the top opening of the neck seal and simultaneously spread the opening as you pull the seal down over your head. Avoid putting pressure on the seal with your fingernails.
- Adjust the neck seal so it lays flat against your neck in a comfortable position low on your neck. DO NOT turn the top edge of the seal inward.

  CLOSING THE ZIPPER - Rear entry suit.
  To close the zipper, extend your arms outward and curved slightly forward at shoulder level. Then have someone close the zipper completely using a steady even pull, whilst ensuring that your underwear does not get caught in the teeth.

  CLOSING THE ZIPPER - Front entry suit.
- To close the zipper, hold the top of the zipper with the left hand (for a suit where the zipper goes from left shoulder to right hip) or the right hand (where the zipper goes from right shoulder to left hip). Use a steady downward pull along the line of the zipper; ensuring clothing does not get caught in the zipper teeth. Ensure the slider is fully against the end stop when in the closed position.
- Vent any excess air from the suit by inserting two fingers of each hand between the neck seal and your neck and crouching down.

OPERATION AND USE

Prior to water entry, vent all air from the drysuit, and ensure your lifejacket or PFD is adjusted correctly.

UNDRESSING

- Rinse any sand or debris off the suit, paying particular attention to the zipper area.
- With your arms stretched forward have someone open the zipper completely using a steady, even pull; or if a front zip suit, hold base of zip with one hand, steadily pull the zip slider upwards.
- Insert both hands into the top opening of the neck seal and simultaneously spread the opening as you drop your head down and out of the opening, simultaneously lifting up on the neck seal. Avoid putting pressure on the seal with your fingernails. Avoid straining the zip when pulling the suit over the head and make sure the zipper is fully open.
- To remove a wrist seal, insert two fingers between the seal and your wrist, with your nails against your wrists, until your fingers are past the seal.
- To avoid putting undue stress on the seal, hold the sleeve material between your fingers and thumb as you simultaneously pull your hand out of the seal opening.
- Lift your arm up and out of the sleeve.
- Repeat the previous three steps with the other wrist.
- Using care not to get sand or debris on the zipper and seals, slide the suit down until it is below your crotch. Then sit down to remove the suit from your legs and feet.

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Cleaning and Storage

- As soon as possible after using the suit, thoroughly rinse the outside of the suit and flush the zipper with running water or contact Safequip for advice about decontamination agents.
- Carefully sponge the neck and wrist seals with a mild solution of soapy water and rinse thoroughly.

WARNING: Any contamination due to exposure to petroleum products, paraffin, or any solvents may affect the latex seals, or the butyl membrane of the suit and must be washed off immediately.

- Ensure that the zipper is clean and free of sand or debris. If necessary, clean with a soft toothbrush and a mild solution of soapy water.
- Close the zipper and lubricate the outside of the teeth with beeswax, or zip lubricant.

CAUTION: For drysuits fitted with the aquaseal zip do not use beeswax, only use zip lubricant for this type of zip.

- After rinsing, hang the drysuit on a suitable hanger to dry, either in a temperature controlled drying room or naturally in a suitable area/facility.

CAUTION: Do not use radiant heat or a radiator to dry the suit, or hang the suit out in direct sunlight.

- Once the suit is thoroughly dry inside and out, dust the neck and wrist seals with French chalk (unscented talcum powder).
- Store the suit by hanging it on a suitable hanger with the zipper open, in a cool location away from any electric motors or any other ozone producing devices that can adversely affect latex seals. Alternatively the suit can be stored in a kit/stowage bag, with the zip open.
- Avoid storing the suit in excessively hot places for extended periods (car boot on a hot day etc).
- If folding the suit for storage, ensure the zipper is open, and is protected from anything that might cause damage to the zip or any contamination.
- DIVING DRYSUITS ONLY - Periodically lubricate the power inflator and adjustable exhaust valves with small amounts of silicone spray.

REPAIRS AND SERVICE

In the event that your drysuit requires any form of repair or service, return it to Safequip Service Centre or your local Authorised Dealer, who will arrange for the appropriate repair.

Provide the Dealer with a copy of the original sales receipt and your copy of the warranty registration card.

CAUTION: Attempts to make temporary repairs in the field that alter the suit may void the limited warranty.

Inspection and service of the drysuit should be conducted by a trained agent or Safequip Ltd, annually. More frequent inspection is suggested if you use the suit often. Costs of inspection and service are not covered by the limited warranty.

DRYSUIT RECORDS

Serial Number.....

Date of Purchase.....

Supplier Name.....

Supplier Telephone Number.....

Manufactured by:

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Tullibody, FK10 2PB, UK

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INSPECTIONS AND SERVICE

DATE	SERVICE PERFORMED	SUPPLIER